



ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A novel polypeptide, osteoprotegerin binding
protein, involved in osteoclast maturation has been
identified based upon its affinity for osteoprotegerin.
Nucleic acid sequences encoding the polypeptide, or a
fragment, analog or derivative thereof, vectors and
10 host cells for production, methods of preparing
osteoprotegerin binding protein, and binding assays are
also described. Compositions and methods for the
treatment of bone diseases such as osteoporosis, bone
loss due to arthritis or metastasis, hypercalcemia, and
15 Paget's disease are also provided.